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PSC 329.01: Politics of Japan

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Political Science 329
Politics of Japan

Fall 2006
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF
LA 349

Texts: Mason, A HISTORY OF JAPAN
Varley, JAPANESE CULTURE
(Hayes, INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE POLITICS 4th ed.
recommended)

This course is concerned with the organization, structure and operation of the political system of Japan. Apart from exploring the main features of the system, the course addresses those social and cultural factors that give Japanese politics its distinctive character.

Requirements:

Course assessment will be based on three exams and one research paper. Of these, two exams (including the final) are required. The second exam and the research paper are optional. These are not for extra credit but rather provide an opportunity to earn a better grade. The first exam will be on September 29 and the second on November 3. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 14, 8:00-10:00. Exams will consist of identification, short answer and/or essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED) The research paper should be a minimum of ten pages and should be based on no fewer than three sources, not including the textbooks.

In order to make the experience of this course as pleasant and rewarding as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

Topic Outline:

1. Introduction
Read: Varley, Ch. 1
Mason, Ch. 1
(Hayes, Introduction)
2. Historical Background

Ancient Japan
Read: Varley, Ch. 2
Mason, Ch. 2-8

Medieval Japan
Read: Varley, Ch. 3-5
Mason, Ch. 9-11

Early Modern Japan
Read: Varley, Ch. 6-8

Modern Japan
Read: Varley, Ch. 9-11
Mason, Ch. 15-17
(Hayes, Ch. 1)

3. The Occupation
(Hayes, Ch. 2)
4. Government
(Hayes, Ch. 3)

First Exam September 29

4. Electoral Politics
(Hayes, Ch. 4-7)
5. The Social Order
(Hayes, Ch. 8)
6. The Economy
(Hayes, Ch. 9)

Second Exam November 3

7. Education
(Hayes, Ch. 10)
8. Legal System
(Hayes, Ch. 11)
9. Japan and the World
(Hayes, 12-13)

Final Exam December 14 8:00-10:00